

### **REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment presents the changes indicated above and the information identified below.

### **CHANGES TO THE SPECIFICATION**

The specification is amended herein to enter the changes made and approved in the parent application. No new matter is presented.

### **ABSTRACT**

The Abstract of the Disclosure is amended herein to conform it to US patent practice and reduce it to 150 words or less. No new matter is presented.

### **FORMAL DRAWINGS**

Submitted with the present division are seven (7) sheets of FORMAL Figures 1-7 which are substantially identical to the formal corrected drawings as filed and approved in the parent application. No new matter is presented.

### **PENDING CLAIMS**

Appropriate ones of the original claims have been amended and/or deleted in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment and are simply refocused claims in which Applicant is present interested. At entry of this paper, Claims 3, 4, 6, 8-10, 12 and 14-16 will be pending for consideration and examination in the application.

### **CLAIMS FOR PRIORITY UNDER §§119 AND 120**

Applicant claims domestic benefit under 35 USC §120 of prior US Application No. 09/811,437 filed 20 March 2001, allowed, and the specification has been properly amended herein to cross-reference such related application. Written acknowledgment of the completion of requirements for the claim for domestic benefit under §120 is respectfully requested.

Applicant also claims foreign priority under 35 USC §119 of Japanese Patent Publication No 2000-227531 filed 24 July 2000. The certified copy of the priority document was filed with prior US Application No. 09/811,437, upon which domestic priority is claimed under §120. Written acknowledgment of the completion of requirements for the claim for foreign priority under §119 also is respectfully requested.

### **ASSIGNEE OF ENTIRE INTEREST**

HITACHI, LTD. is Assignee of entire right, title and interest in and to the present division by virtue of the Assignment filed in prior US Application 09/811,437 and recorded 20 March 2001 at Reel 011630, Frames 0233 *et seq.*

### **RESERVATION OF RIGHTS**

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. Further, Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have

been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, *i.e.*, Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

### EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

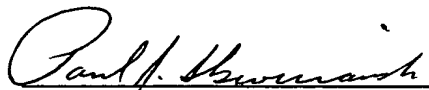
The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number of 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

This Preliminary Amendment is being timely filed with the present division, and therefore, no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,



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Paul J. Skwierawski  
Registration No. 32,173  
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP  
1300 North Seventeenth Street, Suite 1800  
Arlington, Virginia 22209-3801, USA  
Telephone 703-312-6600  
Facsimile 703-312-6666